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Services Division

Committee on European Satellites

(EuSat Committee Meeting - 19th Meeting - 1330 18 July 1956)

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Present:

The topic for discussion in the meeting of 18 July was "The Coal Mining Industry in the European Satellites" with [REDACTED], 25X1A9a M/S, as speaker. Beginning with a consideration of the relative importance of various energy sources, Mr. [REDACTED] pointed out that the 25X1A9a EuSat area was very heavily dependent on coal. While the degree of dependence on coal varies a good deal -- particularly emphasized in Poland but much less important in Rumania -- the area as a whole has relied greatly on this source of energy and will undoubtedly continue to do so for many years. Reserves of coal are believed to be rather large but the problem of estimating reserves is very complex and estimates are quite tenuous. Geological surveys have been extensive but there is still the possibility of new discoveries.

25X1A9a The quality of EuSat coal varies considerably from one area to another, Mr. [REDACTED] stated. Poland has large quantities of good grade bituminous coal but much of the solid fuel in other satellite countries is low grade bituminous or lignite. East Germany is particularly dependent upon lignite deposits. Notwithstanding the poor quality of East German fuel resources, a major industry has been established on this foundation owing, in part, to the remarkable ingenuity of the Germans in developing by-products.

Modest increases in productivity have been achieved in the EuSat coal industry. One of the factors responsible for this improvement has been mechanization of certain operations, particularly movement of coal. In terms of labor productivity the EuSat coal industry compares somewhat unfavorably with Western Europe.

Foreign trade in coal is of considerable importance in the EuSat area. Poland is a large exporter, shipping coal to western Europe as well as to bloc countries. With regard to intra-bloc coal trade, information is quite limited except for the sizeable movements from Poland to East Germany. There is no evidence, Mr. [REDACTED] stated, that 25X1A9a CECA was fostering regional specialization of the EuSat coal industry in accordance with inherent advantage of individual satellites.

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Definite program arrangements have not been completed for the 25 July meeting. Should it not be possible to secure a speaker, the meeting will be devoted to a discussion of significant current developments in the EuSat area. Participants are urged to assemble promptly on Wednesday at 1330 in room 2125 M.



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